

marketing, human resource development and exploitation of new technologies. The recommendations also contain certain amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. A copy of the report is available at Ministry's website *i.e.* mib.nic.in. View on some of the recommendations of the Committee is to be taken by Prasar Bharati, where as in respect of some others, Government has to take a view. The Government is in the process of consulting the members of the Prasar Bharati Board, representatives of staff and employees unions before taking a final view. The report has also been circulated among the Members of the Consultative Committee to seek their views.

Losses suffered by Doordarshan for telecasting of serials

†64. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan had to suffer great losses for telecasting a number of serials during the year 1998-99 and also before it;

(b) if so, what are the total losses including losses suffered during the year 1998-99 and the reasons therefor; and

(c) who has been held responsible by Government for the losses of Doordarshan and what action has been taken against those who are responsible for such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shifting of time of International Film Festival of India

65. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual International Film Festival of India has been shifted from January to October from this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

- (c) whether the film industry is protesting against shifting;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) where next IFFI will be held and its dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The dates of the International Film Festival of India have been changed from 10—20 January to 10—20 October from the IFFI 2001 as the international participation in terms of films and film personalities was not very satisfactory because the dates coincided with Christmas and new year celebrations.

(c) and (d) Initially some newspaper reports appeared in this regard and the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce also sent a letter to the Government. However, the Film Federation of India, which is the apex body of the film industry, have now endorsed the decision of the Government.

(e) The next IFFI is proposed to be held at Bangalore from 10th to 20th October, 2001.

I and B Network for NER

66. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of proposals formulated and target set to ensure that I and B network actually reaches all remote areas of NER;
- (b) the basic drawback for which the I and B network did not reach remotest corner of NER during the last fifty years;
- (c) the deficiency of existing infrastructure and plan for its improvement/ upgradation during the Ninth Plan; and
- (d) the steps taken to man the various I and B installations in NER for effective operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) The Government has under consideration a proposal to strengthen AIR and Doordarshan coverage in North-Eastern States and to improve the quality and reach of programmes in that region. In the package under consideration, special thrust is proposed to be given to improve the Radio and TV coverage in the rural and remote